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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 135: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 174: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (continued)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 135: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.67)

1. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.67, drew attention to paragraph 1, in which the General Assembly would express its regret that, as of 29 April 1994, only 37 Member States had paid their assessed contributions to the Special Account for the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in full, and would urge all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions. Paragraph 2 expressed grave concern about the resulting financial situation of the Special Account for the Advance Mission and the Transitional Authority, owing to the continued non-payment by Member States of their assessments, which had led to an unprecedented delay in the reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. Paragraph 4 took note of the assurances given by the Secretariat that the matter of reimbursement of outstanding dues to the troop-contributing countries would be given priority when settling the unliquidated obligations of the Transitional Authority prior to its liquidation.

2. The General Assembly would decide in paragraph 8 to appropriate the amount of $236 million for the period from 1 May to 31 July 1993. In paragraph 9, it would appropriate the further amounts of $100 million gross for the Transitional Authority for the period from 1 September 1993 to 31 March 1994 and $32,562,900 gross to be covered by interest income and miscellaneous income in the Special Account for the Advance Mission and the Transitional Authority, in addition to the total amount of $1,482,191,600 gross already appropriated for the Advance Mission and the Transitional Authority.

3. The Secretary-General would be requested in paragraph 10 to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a detailed financial performance report on the Special Account for the Advance Mission and the Transitional Authority for the period ending 30 June 1994. In paragraph 11 he would be requested further to provide to the General Assembly no later than 31 March 1995 a comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the administration and management of the operation, with a view to utilizing that experience in other peace-keeping operations.

4. Lastly, in paragraph 16, the General Assembly would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia". She hoped that the Committee would be able to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

5. Mr. GOKHALE (India) said his Government hoped that, following the adoption of the draft resolution, Member States and the Secretariat would make every effort to ensure that outstanding assessments were paid and troop-contributing countries reimbursed. His Government looked forward to the Secretary-General's

(Mr. Gokhale, India)

report on all aspects of the administration and management of UNTAC, with a view to the utilization of that experience in other peace-keeping operations.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.67 without a vote.

7. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.67 was adopted without a vote.

8. Mr. ZEVELAKIS (Greece) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution and expressed his delegation's appreciation to the representative of Mexico for her coordination of the effort to achieve consensus.

9. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that he wished to clarify the Secretariat's position on paragraph 9 of the draft resolution. Of the amount of $32,562,900 gross to be covered by interest income and miscellaneous income in the Special Account for the Advance Mission and the Transitional Authority, less than $20 million had accrued in the account of UNTAC. Should any difficulties arise as a result, the Secretariat would return to the issue in the context of the financial performance report requested in paragraph 10.

10. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 135 and requested the Rapporteur to report thereon direct to the plenary Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 174: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.68)

11. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.68, said that, in paragraph 2, the General Assembly would reaffirm that the office referred to in paragraph 12 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/800 and Corr.1) was to be called a field office of the United Nations development system. In paragraph 7, it would decide to appropriate to the Special Account referred to in General Assembly decision 48/480 an amount of $910,400 gross for the operation of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia for the period from 15 November 1993 to 15 May 1994. In paragraph 8, it would decide also, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the additional amount of $153,900 gross for the period from 15 November 1993 to 15 May 1994. The Secretary-General would be requested in paragraph 10 to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a performance report on the budget of the Military Liaison Team for the mandate period ending 15 May 1994. Finally, in paragraph 11, the General Assembly would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia". She hoped that the Committee would be able to adopt the resolution without a vote.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.68 without a vote.

13. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.68 was adopted without a vote.

14. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 174 and requested the Rapporteur to report thereon direct to the plenary Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 123: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.64/Rev.1)

15. The CHAIRMAN, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.64/Rev.1 on emoluments, pension scheme and conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice, said that delegations had reached a consensus on the draft text, which she hoped could be adopted without a vote.

16. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.64/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded that stage of its consideration of agenda item 123.

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST (continued)

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.66)

18. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.66 on the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) drew attention to paragraph 3, in which the General Assembly would express its deep concern about the status of contributions to UNDOF as of 31 March 1994, and to paragraph 4, concerning the adverse effect that the deteriorating financial situation had on reimbursement to troop contributors. In paragraph 12, it would note with appreciation that a voluntary contribution had been made to UNDOF by a Government and in paragraph 13 it would decide to appropriate to the Special Account referred to in section II, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 3211 B (XXIX) the amount of $18,204,000 gross for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1993, inclusive. It would decide also in paragraph 14 to appropriate to the Special Account an amount of $16,080,000 gross for the period from 1 December 1993 to 31 May 1994. The Secretary-General would be authorized in paragraph 18 to enter into commitments for UNDOF at a rate not to exceed $2,680,000 gross per month for the six-month period from 1 June 1994. In paragraph 20, he would also be requested to include in his next report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNDOF comments on the feasibility of a gradual reduction of the surplus balance, taking into account the financial situation of the Force, the status of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and the views expressed by Member States. He hoped that the draft resolution, which had been submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations, could be adopted without a vote.

19. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation's position on the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East remained unchanged.

20. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.66 without a vote.

21. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.66 was adopted without a vote.

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (continued) (A/C.5/48/L.65)

22. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.65 on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said that paragraph 2 of the draft resolution would express the General Assembly's deep concern about the adverse effect of the deteriorating financial situation on reimbursement to troop contributors, which placed an additional burden on those countries and put at risk the continuing supply of troops to UNIFIL. In paragraph 10, the General Assembly would decide to appropriate to the Special Account for UNIFIL the amount of $146,280,000 gross for the operation of the Force from 1 February 1993 to 31 January 1994, inclusive. It would decide also, in paragraph 11, to appropriate to the Special Account a total amount of $71,142,000 gross for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1994 and, as an ad hoc arrangement (para. 12), to apportion the additional amount of $48,265,400 gross for the period from 1 February to 31 July 1994. Paragraph 15 would authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the operation of the Force at a rate not to exceed $11,857,000 gross per month for a period up to six months beginning 1 August 1994. Lastly, the Secretary-General would be requested in paragraph 17 to include in his next report to the General Assembly on the financing of UNIFIL comments on the feasibility of a gradual reduction of the surplus balance. He hoped that the draft resolution, which had been submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations, could be adopted without a vote.

23. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.65 without a vote.

24. Draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.65 was adopted without a vote.

25. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 130 (a) and (b) and requested the Rapporteur to report thereon direct to the plenary Assembly.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

26. Mrs. GRAHAM (United States of America), referring to the items on its programme of work which the Committee proposed to defer to its forty-ninth session, said that her delegation would prefer to consider the question of staff assessment under agenda item 123 in June or July instead of in early May. In addition, like a number of other delegations, it would prefer to consider the 1994-1995 programme budget items on standards of accommodation for air travel, travel and related expenses, the proposals of the Secretary-General on the provision of and related arrangements for travel services and allowance, together with the corresponding reports of the Advisory Committee, during the resumed forty-eighth session, instead of at the forty-ninth session.

27. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) said that his delegation attached great importance to the creation of a new budget section relating to the New Agenda for Development in Africa for the 1990s. The item should therefore be considered during the resumed forty-eighth session and not deferred to the forty-ninth session. Similarly, the item concerning the abolition of 19 posts in the Office of Conference Services should be considered in June during the resumed forty-eighth session. In his view, a report from the Advisory Committee on the matter was not necessary. Agenda item 133, on the financing of MINURSO, scheduled for July, should also be considered in June.

28. On the other hand, the report of the Secretary-General on the issue of workload justification in the Centre for Human Rights, scheduled for consideration in June 1994, should be deferred to the forty-ninth session. Given the difficulty of achieving consensus during the resumed forty-eighth session on the placement of Member States into the groups for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses, that item should also be deferred to the forty-ninth session. If the Secretariat did not consider urgent the item on amendments to Staff Rules (agenda item 168), that item as well should be deferred to the forty-ninth session.

29. Lastly, the sub-item on the senior posts structure of the Department of Administration and Management under agenda item 123 should be considered in July 1994 or at the forty-ninth session, instead of in June 1994, as currently proposed.

30. Ms. IIYAMBO (Namibia), Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) and Mr. MAÏGA (Mali) agreed with the representative of Morocco that the report of the Secretary-General on the creation of a new budget section relating to the New Agenda for Development in Africa for the 1990s should be considered at the resumed session in June.

31. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) supported by Mr. SHARP (Australia) said that he would welcome clarification on the status of programme budget implications concerning the Centre for Human Rights, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the implementation of the results of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and Cambodia.

32. Mr. GOUDYMA (Ukraine), referring to the report of the Working Group on the placement of Member States into the groups for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses, said that the decision to move his country and Belarus from Group B to Group C should be reflected in the programme of work as a separate item on the agenda.

33. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) suggested that the Committee should consider meeting throughout the month of June in order to dispatch priority issues under agenda items 123, 124 and 138. Reference should be made to the document on the staff list of the United Nations Secretariat under agenda item 168. The amendments to the Staff Rules could be dealt with at the forty-ninth session.

34. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) referring to agenda item 123, said that since issues relating to energy and natural resources should be considered by the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council before being submitted to the Fifth Committee, that particular matter could either be deferred to the resumed forty-eighth session in July or to the forty-ninth session.

35. Mr. PRASODJO (Indonesia) said that his delegation would prefer a longer session in June and a shorter session in July.

36. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), replying to the Canadian and other representatives, noted that the approval of the staffing resources for the Centre for Human Rights under General Assembly resolution 48/228 had not been contingent upon the submission of a report by the Secretary-General on the issue of workload justification. If documentation on the question was not available by June and no additional resources were involved, he saw no harm in deferring consideration of the question to the forty-ninth session.

37. However, he did not recommend postponing consideration of the questions relating to the requirements for the Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations presence in Cambodia. The Advisory Committee had recommended a commitment authority for the establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and was awaiting information from the Secretariat concerning organizational and other arrangements before it made a detailed analysis of the statement of programme budget implications. The High Commissioner had indicated to him that discussions concerning additional requirements were still under way. If additional resources were requested, the Advisory Committee would have to consider whether such resources should be approved during the resumed forty-eighth session or whether the question could be deferred to the forty-ninth session.

38. That morning, he had held a discussion with the new Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management concerning the integrated management information system (IMIS). It seemed that an additional document might be submitted, which might affect the dates on which the documentation prepared by the Advisory Committee would be available. If additional information on IMIS was provided in two or three weeks, the question might have to be taken up in July. The Advisory Committee would keep the Fifth Committee informed.

39. Replying to the Canadian representative's question with regard to the performance report, he said that the credit to Member States related to the final transfer of credits between sections of the budget would not be made until the Board of Auditors had audited the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and its report had been considered by the General Assembly. Thus, outstanding credits would not be made in 1994 and consideration of that question in June would not expedite credits to Member States.

40. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) referred to the programme of work and provided additional clarification concerning the status of documentation. Referring to the resumed session in June, he said that discussion of the integration of the Office for Project Services (OPS)/UNDP in the Department for Development Support

(Mr. Takasu)

and Management Services, the senior structure of the Department of Administration and Management and the proposals of the Secretary-General on distribution of responsibilities and resources regarding energy and natural resources under agenda item 123 were all related to the restructuring effort. The proposal submitted by the Secretary-General to the forty-eighth session had not covered certain areas. It was hoped that once pending issues were resolved, the consultation period could begin. The report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Executive Board of UNDP would be taken up in a matter of days. The report on the senior structure of the Department of Administration and Management had been reviewed and was ready for submission. It was sincerely hoped that the Secretary-General's proposal would be adopted. Although it had been the Secretary-General's original intention to submit the report on the decentralization of responsibilities and resources regarding energy and natural resources to the forty-eighth session, consultations among the secretariats concerned had not been completed at that time. The Secretariat hoped that the transfer of responsibilities and staff would be implemented by 1 July 1994. Urgent action by the Committee was necessary.

41. Referring to the question of human rights, he said that the report on the issue of workload justification in the Centre for Human Rights focused merely on one aspect, namely staffing and other related resources for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights programme in Cambodia. Spending authority had been granted for the establishment of the High Commissioner, but resources for the human rights programme in Cambodia had been approved only until the end of June. The matter required urgent attention.

42. The report of the Secretary-General under agenda item 138 (a) not only dealt with criteria to ensure transparency in the use of the support account for peace-keeping operations but also contained proposals on recruitment and activities to be financed by the support account after 1 July 1994. As the authority in respect of the support account had been granted only until the end of June, it would be extremely difficult for the Secretariat to continue to backstop certain peace-keeping operations unless action was taken urgently. Referring to agenda item 168, on personnel questions, he said that the staff rules in question referred to contracts of limited duration, mainly in connection with peace-keeping missions. While the Secretariat would like to utilize the simplified procedure proposed, the amendments had been submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration in view of their significant implications for personnel policies.

43. The Secretariat would make every effort to submit reports on specific peace-keeping operations by the deadlines specified in the programme of work for the July session. Those activities must be approved by the General Assembly before the forty-ninth session.

44. The CHAIRMAN added that the Fifth Committee would request the Committee on Conferences to review the question of the abolition of 19 posts in the Office of Conference Services and of the workload standards for conference-servicing staff and report to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. That item would thus be deferred to the forty-ninth session. She stressed that action must be

(The Chairman)

taken urgently with respect to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the human rights programme in Cambodia, the integration of OPS/UNDP, the decentralization of responsibilities and resources in the energy and natural resources programme, and the support account for peace-keeping operations. With respect to the Staff Rules, she noted that a staff list would be made available shortly. She wondered whether delegations would be prepared to consider certain pressing items during the June session rather than waiting until July. The programme of work could be flexible, depending on the availability of documentation.

45. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco) agreed that the proposals concerning energy and natural resources (agenda item 123) should be considered in June. Consideration of the senior structure of the Department of Administration and Management and the issue of workload justification, which the Committee had been assured would have no effect on the resources of the Centre for Human Rights, could be deferred to the forty-ninth session. Referring to agenda item 138 (b), he said that the reclassification of Ukraine and Belarus could be considered during the June session but that other aspects of the question should be deferred to the forty-ninth session. It was not necessary to consider agenda item 168 on personnel questions in June but his delegation would agree to do so if the Secretariat insisted.

46. The CHAIRMAN noted that the Colombian delegation had deemed it essential to consider the issue of workload justification during the June session.

47. Ms. IIYAMBO (Namibia) agreed with the Moroccan representative that the report of the Secretary-General on the creation of a new budget section relating to the New Agenda for Development in Africa (agenda item 123) should not be deferred to the forty-ninth session but rather should be considered during an extended June session.

48. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that her delegation believed that the questions of the structure of the Centre for Human Rights and the report on workload justification should be considered during the June session but that agenda item 168 was not so urgent. Her delegation proposed holding a continuous six-week session in June and July.

49. Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) noted that the inclusion of all the peace-keeping operations in the programme of work for the July session reflected a consensus which had been reached during informal consultations. His delegation could not agree, however, to considering certain aspects of the MINURSO operation in June and other aspects in July. The question should be considered in its entirety during the June session. His delegation saw no reference to any request for a report in paragraph 15 of the resolution on the financing of MINURSO.

50. Mr. JU Kuilin (China) noted that, at the Committee's previous meeting, his delegation had proposed according priority to the question of the creation of a new budget section relating to the New Agenda for Development in Africa. The New Agenda was a priority activity under the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. His delegation therefore supported the Moroccan, Namibian and Algerian positions concerning it.

51. Mr. ZEVELAKIS (Greece) said that his delegation would agree to a session of any duration and would accept the inclusion of certain agenda items in the programme of work for the June session rather than deferring them to the forty-ninth session. In view of the Controller's remarks concerning agenda item 168 and the importance of ensuring that the staffing of the peace-keeping operations was consistent with the Staff Rules, that item should be dealt with on a priority basis.

52. Mr. GOUDYMA (Ukraine) noted that the reclassification of Belarus and Ukraine should be reflected as a separate item in the programme of work to be considered once the report of the Working Group on the placement of Member States into the groups for the apportionment of peace-keeping expenses had been submitted. The fact that the Working Group had met only once in the past six months and was slow to draft criteria concerning the placement of Member States did not justify deferral of the question to the forty-ninth session. Item 138 (b) should be taken up during the June session.

53. Mr. SULEIMAN (Nigeria) agreed with the Namibian and Chinese representatives that consideration of the creation of a new budget section relating to the New Agenda for Development in Africa should not be deferred.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau would redraft the programme of work taking into consideration the views expressed and that the scheduling of the June and July sessions would depend largely on the availability of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the Advisory Committee.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.